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Mammoth Sierra

MAGAZINE

The Biggest Rainbows

- PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
- A LITTLE MORE EDGY
- BORN FROM THE HEART

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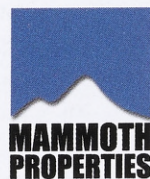
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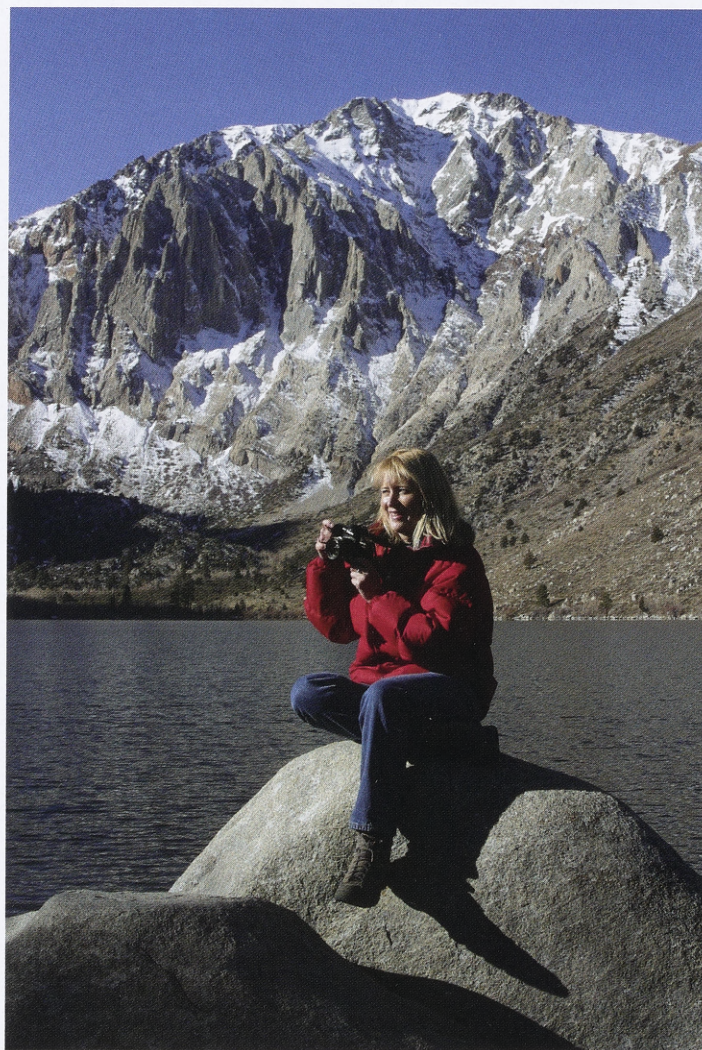
Guardians of Our Wild Lands

The environment and photography would seem to be concepts that work together. Not necessarily so, according to environmental photographer John Dittli. The art of capturing beautiful landscapes on film may conflict in part with the philosophy of a true environmentalist. In an interview with Dittli, he explains this conflict and what his definition of the term “environmentalist” means in our consumer-driven age. The Eastern Sierra attracts a certain breed of photographer, in tune with nature, who takes inspirational landscape, nature, and lifestyle images for the world to appreciate. The awareness the photographers breed with their imagery can have far-reaching consequences as people strive to protect our wildernesses and wide-open spaces from development and urban sprawl.

The first sign of spring for many in the Eastern Sierra is the opening of fishing season. It's a time when, in a tradition that spans many decades, anglers flock to our surrounding mountain lakes and rivers to bond and catch big trout. Writer Martin Strelneck spends an afternoon with the “big daddy” of trout, Tim Alpers. Alpers raises salmon-fleshed rainbow trout — fish that look, fight, and act like a wild fish.

Art in the Sierra is represented in two articles in this issue. For the last 10 years, artist Cheyenne McAfee has been quietly working away in her Swall Meadows home. Her southwestern-themed artwork is sought after by collectors and is not often seen in this area. New to the art scene in Mammoth is sculptor Rebecca Clark, who recently opened the Clark Contemporary Gallery. Full of energy and ideas, Rebecca has a dream of involving the community in art with fund-raising events, workshops, and other activities. In March the gallery is hosting an exciting photographic exhibition with Robert Glenn Ketchum, Macduff Everton, and Michael Arntz. The exhibition is a benefit, and a percentage of the sales will be donated to the Andrea Mead Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers. This is an example of photographers working with the community for environmental planning.

Jane Dove Juneau
Editor



The editor surrounded by the dramatic scenery of Convict Lake.

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Mammoth Sierra

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EYE ON THE SIERRA



New Mountain Access

The new Village Gondola starts operation in March and whisks skiers and snowboarders from The Village on Minaret Boulevard to Canyon Lodge. The 12-passenger cabins are walk-in, and people carry their skis and snowboards inside the cabin. The detachable high-speed lift has a total of 19 towers, 15 along the route and two masts each at the upper and lower stations. The gondola was designed to run above the treetops.

Bruce Woodward of Mammoth was the architect for the upper Canyon Station, while the base station in The Village was initially designed by Ray Lechtman of Vancouver, then modified and designed by Mammoth's own Larry Walker. Both terminals are covered with "fly roofs," which are enclosures that house the engine above the loading area. At Canyon Lodge, the fly roof was painted to coordinate with the Lodge's exterior, while the base terminal's fly roof has inlaid copper panels in keeping with the look of The Village. The gondola stations were built by Howard CDM of Long Beach, which is the same contractor that built the Panorama Gondola base station and remodeled McCoy Station.

Body Alignment and Core Strength

The three machines at Movement in Mind Pilates Studio may resemble medieval torture-devices, but their true purpose is helping to restore proper biomechanics to the body with as little pain as possible.

The machines, called Universal Reformers, are one aspect of Pilates (pi-lah'-teez), a form of exercise invented by Joseph H. Pilates around the 1920s. Pilates concentrates on stabilizing the core muscles of the body. Originally popular as physical therapy for injured dancers, Pilates experienced a resurgence within the last decade as models and actors flocked to the method, which is said to create strong yet lean bodies.

While the Mammoth studio's creators, Margy Verba and Sabrina Nioche, acknowledge the aesthetic benefit of Pilates, that is not their main goal when working with clients. "Pilates is very trendy right now," says Margy, "but that is not what we are about. We are about functional movement."

According to Sabrina, that movement means correct anatomical alignment and core strength to allow timely and accurate muscle-firing patterns. In short, she says, it is about "feeling good in your body."

With nearly 10 years' training each, Margy and Sabrina consider themselves teachers, not businesswomen, with a goal to make the notoriously expensive practice of Pilates more affordable through group classes. Private sessions are also available for individual needs, and both women agree that anyone can benefit from Pilates. Their current clients range from extreme athletes to those with chronic pain.

Movement in Mind is located at 3399 Main St. #5 in the Luxury Outlet Mall. Call 760-924-2043 for more information.
— RS



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PHOTO © WALLY HOEMANN

New Middle School



The new \$12.4 million Mammoth Middle School is due to be up and running by April 1, exactly a year after construction started. The new, 40,000-square-foot school building will house the present 325 middle-school students, replacing portable classrooms currently used for grades six through eight, and will include eleven regular classrooms, two full-size science rooms, a media center, and a multi-purpose room with a large stage. The construction project includes landscaping and playing fields adjacent to the middle school. The Mammoth High School football field had to be moved to a new site near the elementary school because of the construction of the middle school.

The majority of the money, \$10.4 million for the middle-school construction, came from a school bond passed in April 1998. The balance of \$2 million is to come from matching funds from the state. The general contractor for the project was Clark and Sullivan of Sacramento/Reno.

Spring in Death Valley



Early spring is a perfect time to head down from the High Sierra to the warm weather of Death Valley National Park's valley floor. It's a fascinating place to hike, take photographs, and explore. At Furnace Creek, the Furnace Creek Inn and Ranch Resort has an 18-hole golf course, a swimming pool, horseback riding, and conference and banquet facilities.

For those who prefer to camp, there are three National Park Service campgrounds close to Furnace Creek. Other accommodations and campsites are available at

Stovepipe Wells, which is closer to Scotty's Castle.

Named features within the park include the Funeral Mountains,

Coffin Peak, Hell's Gate, Starvation Canyon, and Dead Man Pass. This is clearly a place with a bad history, reflecting the troubles and misfortunes endured by the pioneers who first traversed, inhabited, and mined the region in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Death Valley National Park has more than 3.3 million acres of spectacular desert

continued on page 12

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TOWN & AROUND

continued from page 11

scenery, interesting and rare desert wildlife, complex geology, undisturbed wilderness, and sites of historical and cultural interest. Bounded on the west by 11,049-foot Telescope Peak and on the east by 5,475-foot Dante's View, Badwater is the lowest point (282 feet below sea level) in the Western Hemisphere. The depth of the depression is partly responsible for its extreme high temperatures, which can exceed 130°F in summer.

Five months of the year, merciless heat dominates the scene, and for the next seven, the heat releases its grip only slightly. Rain rarely gets past the guardian mountains, but the little rain that does fall is the life force of the wildflowers that transform the desert into a vast garden. (See Mammoth Sierra Magazine cover photograph by John Dittli.)



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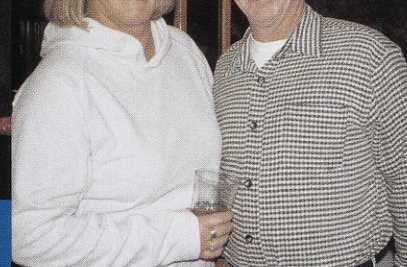
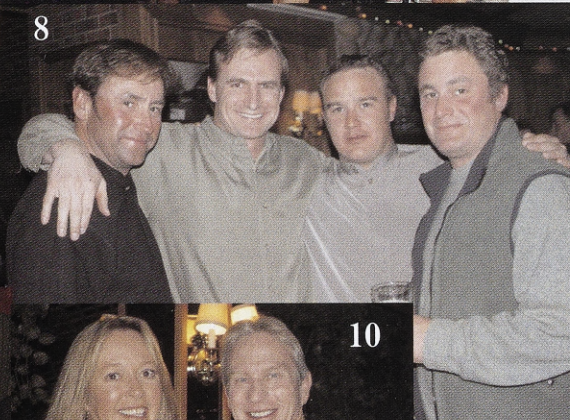
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TOWN & AROUND HIGH SOCIETY



1 - 3 Mammoth Lakes Foundation's Friends of Education dinner at McCoy Station: Robin Stater and Erick Schat, Dave McCoy, Ginny and Doug Pfeiffer, Andrea Mead Lawrence, and Werner Launspach.

4. Coldwell Banker Mammoth Real Estate party at Alpenrose: Jennifer Langlo, Sandi Kamuf, Christel Paolino, Donna Lisa Knowles, Kari Noles, and Nicole Dunaway.

5. Mammoth Lakes Board of Realtors' annual holiday party at Nevado's restaurant: Jerry and Trish Dunlap, Larry and Alicia McKee with Bruce and Nancy Brende.

6. A bevy of Mammoth beauties on the Eh Toil, Zydeco & Blues Cruise.

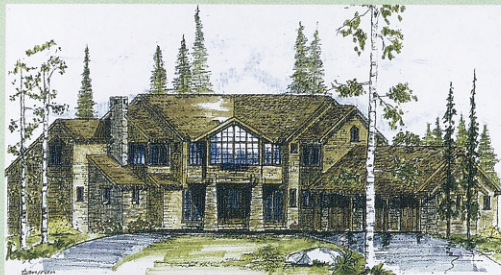
7 - 8 Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce's annual "Chamber Magic" event at the Lakefront Restaurant: Tony and Sherryl Taylor, Nancy and Ken Baker, with Peter and Ariel Shimonolle. Paul Ferguson, Steve Klassen, Anita Silliker, and Trish Dunlap.

9 - 10 The Dennis Machill Fundraiser at Mammoth Grill and Bar: Bob Hurlburt, Stu Brown, Jono Joosten and Dave Schacht, Val and Bill Anderson.

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Sold
Starwood Lot #34. Beautifully situated on a corner lot along Sierra Star's 11th fairway in Starwood Development, this 4,000 sq. ft. 4-BD/5-BA home features a circle drive which continues through a covered "drop-off area" portecochere. Spacious and luxurious master suite with fireplace has back entrance to cozy library. Guest suite is complete with sitting area and fire place for two family entertaining. Designer kitchen with granite counters, tumbled marble backsplashes, Viking appliances, custom-designed knotty alder cabinets is open to Great Room and golf course views. Other amenities include: glassed in sunroom off upstairs loft, hickory hardwood flooring, Marvin all-wood true divided wood windows, 8' knotty alder interior doors, tumbled marble with slab counters in all baths, three car garage. \$2,300,000

Starwood Lot #32. Nestled in the trees bordering the 14th fairway on a quiet cul-de-sac in Starwood Development, this home has everything including a wine cellar. 4-BD/5-BA and 4,000 sq.ft. offer a spacious floor plan with grand open staircase. Master suite with fireplace and attached study provides the perfect "getaway area." Library off the main entry makes a wonderful home office. Second master suite with fireplace is ideal for quests. Outstanding kitchen with granite counter tops and custom knotty alder cabinets is wonderful for entertaining large groups and has back access to library. Hickory hardwood floors, tumbled marble baths and 8' interior doors combine to make this home something special. Upstairs loft area gives children their own space. Generous use of exterior stone along with Marvin all wood, true divided windows give this home an elegant mountain look. \$2,200,000



Starwood Lot #12. Bordered by woods on one side and Sierra Star's fairway #13 along the back, this home is a Starwood Development dream come true. With 4,100 sq.ft. of well-designed space, this 4-BD/5-BA home includes an impressive glassed-in library with fireplace, unique double staircase, large dining room with wooded view, two wonderfully designed master suites each with fireplace, and wood-beamed kitchen/open-truss great room combination with golf course view. Stone and hardwood are combined with other custom finishes and details to create a warm and inviting environment. Cozy upstairs loft provides a special space for children. Knotty alder cabinetry is specially designed and created for beauty and function and combined with granite kitchen counter tops and tumbled marble baths. Natural stone veneer and Marvin all-wood true divided windows put the finishing touch on this remarkable home. \$2,200,000



Starwood Lot #9. This magnificent 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath home is nestled amidst towering pines and warmed by south facing exposure. An abundant display of hardwood, glass and stone throughout. Custom finishes and details make for a large 3,700 sq. ft. luxurious, yet cozy mountain home. Rich alder cabinetry is perfectly designed for functional living. Granite kitchen counter tops and tumbled marble baths add a touch of class not duplicated in Mammoth. Generous living spaces that are unique and inviting for each member of the family, pine filtered view of the golf course from the living room. Beautifully and professionally landscaped for year-round enjoyment. \$1,850,000 furnished



The Bluffs, 360 Leverage. Spectacular setting with magnificent view of Mammoth Rock and the Sherwins, this Bluffs home has it all. Grand covered front entry is just the beginning for this 5300 sq.ft. 4-BD/6-BA home with 3 car garage. Two story library with fireplace and viewing balcony can be used as home office or quiet retreat. Upstairs master suite, complete with sitting area and separate exercise room with bath is wonderfully private. Secondary bedroom wing with study is located away from primary living area. Intriguing back entrance to kitchen leads through laundry/butlers pantry/main pantry for easy unloading Viking appliances, tumbled stone in all baths, 8' knotty alder doors, crown molding, casing and base, and Marvin all-wood true divide windows are just a few of the amenities. \$3,500,000



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Snowcreek Ranch home, 471 Ranch Road - 4-bedroom/3-bath, 3,577 sq. ft. home. Designed by Fu-Tung Cheng of Arang Design Group. Two-car garage, beautiful patio with lush landscaping and sprinkler system. Exquisite kitchen appliances with indoor grill. Hydronic heating throughout. Fantastic views of the Sherwins to the south and the White Mountains to the East. \$2,500,000

Fairway Ranch home, 1 Woodcrest Trail - 3-bedroom/3-bath home with attached 2-car garage. Cedar shake roof, wide open deck, sprinklered landscaping with mature trees. Interior offers the ultimate in modern living. Southfacing on the golf course. Hydronic heating, marble floors, granite counters, with custom doors and cabinets. Luxurious furnishings and well-designed accessories. \$1,895,000



TimberRidge Estates, 626 John Muir Road- Ski-in and ski-out from this 5-bedroom/5.5-bath. Truly a dramatic and very spacious 5,000 sq. ft. floorplan. Custom hardwood and tile floors, jet tub, two fireplaces, and unbelievable views. \$2,395,000



Snowcreek V, 752 Fairway Homes - 4-bedroom/ 3-bath townhome with attached garage. New hickory flooring, new paint, awesome upgrades throughout, southfacing with views to Solitude Mountain from magnificent window or a covered porch. Beautifully furnished. \$1,150,000

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Fine Wines

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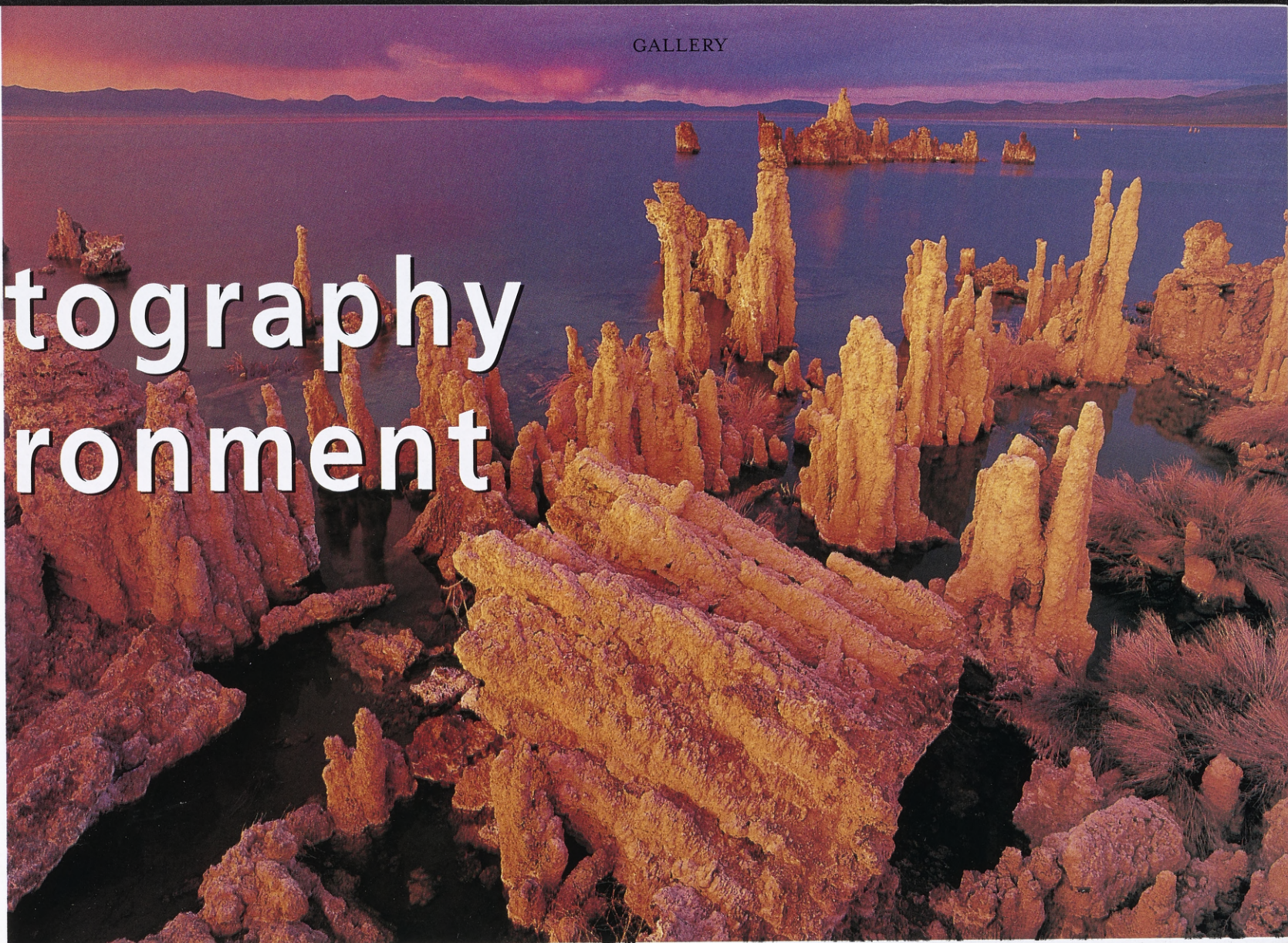
Phone 873 4296; 3100 West Line Street, Bishop.

Advocacy Photo for the Envi

He gives a nod to the term “environmentalist” and to the concept of “environmental photographer.” Although the two appear synonymous, to John Dittli, the role of an “environmental photographer” is almost an oxymoron — a phrase that’s self-contradicting.

Climber Silhouette at Pinnacles National Mounment

Photography Environment



Fallen tufa at the south shore of Mono Lake.

"I grapple with that often as a photographer, because conventional photography is not very environmentally friendly. I grapple with it because I do shoot remote places and places that are sacred to me. When those get published with a name, I know it is going to attract people there. Attracting people is a double-edged sword. Attracting people to an area that is not protected helps in preservation because people know about it. But to another degree, bringing more people to an area brings impact to the experience one has in those places. It also impacts the place itself physically."

Mammoth adventure/landscape photographer John Dittli is committed to protection of the environment and wild places. His photographs are published by the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club as they work toward their goals of environmental protection.

"I feel a lot better about my work when it is used to advocate preservation of wildlands rather than to sell a product, although advertising pays the bills." His lifestyle photographs are used in catalogs and advertising by companies such as

Ford Motor Company, McDonald's, Moonstone, Nike, Black Diamond, and Sierra Designs.

Dittli's definition of an environmentalist is "a person that is willing to lead a minimalist lifestyle and makes concessions to leave the least amount of impact on the earth." That can be anything from living in a small house that doesn't use many resources, such as electricity and heat, to not making much money as a photographer — therefore, you can't consume very much. "I believe the less money you make, the less impact you make on the earth, because without money you can't consume. I don't have much money, but I feel rich."

In keeping with their beliefs, Dittli and his wife/business partner, Leslie, are in the process of building a straw-bale house in the Crowley area. The house produces 80–90% of its own electricity with solar-voltaics and has solar heating.

When in the field, remote, backcountry landscapes are what Dittli prefers to photograph. "When I'm shooting advertising, I prefer to show how the product/activity works

PHOTOS © JOHN DITTLI

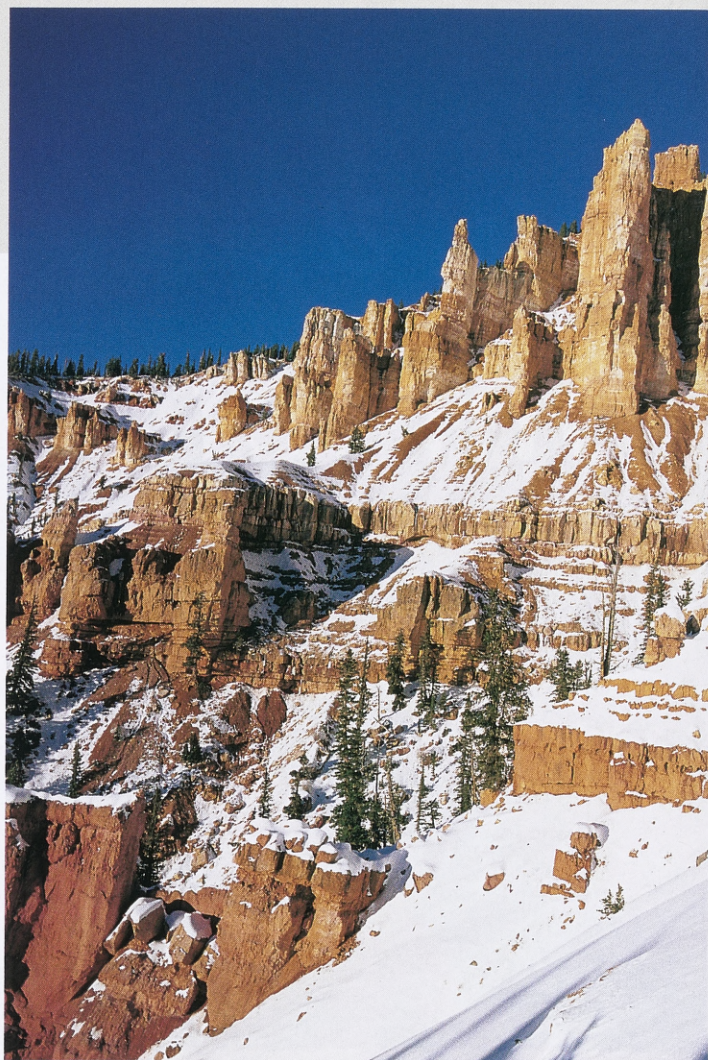


Winter Camp at Mather Pass, John Muir Trail, Sierra Nevada

with the landscape rather than tight, in-your-face shots, which I also do. I'm into light more than anything, early mornings and evenings. And if I know a storm's coming in, I like to get out in them; that's when you get good light. I get kinda bored with the sunny blue skies that we typically have in the Sierra all summer long.

"In my landscapes, I try to look for a relationship between what's going on at a person's feet and [what's going on] in the distance to create a sense of place, a sense of experience."

Most of Dittli's advertising photographs are taken with a medium-format camera, unless he's required to shoot "in-your-face" images. Then he uses a 35mm camera. For land-



Ben Grasseccchi at Cedar Breaks regions.

scapes, he uses a 4x5 camera.

Before becoming a full-time photographer in 1995, Dittli was a climbing ranger during the summer for the Forest Service in the Northern Cascades for 12 years. Over the winter months, he worked at Tamarack Cross-Country Ski Center in Mammoth. Doing year-'round work in the outdoors offered Dittli the opportunity to take a lot of great photographs. "I was very fortunate in getting paid to build up a stock. It is very difficult for an aspiring photographer to get their foot in the door and still eat."

Both Leslie and John are committed to the lifestyle of a freelance photographer and understand the challenges



John Dittli, photographer

involved. "I can't imagine going back to 9-to-5." Dittli recognizes that it is often easier for photographers to make money doing other trades. "Claude [Fiddler] and Jim [Stimson] and others make a lot more money in a lot less time [in construction]; it's very tempting. If we figure out what we are getting paid per hour... I don't want to figure it out."

In 1998, the Dittlis had the opportunity to follow a 100-year desert bloom as it traveled through Arizona, Nevada, and California. A desert-bloom photograph from this trip,



Jeff Clark at Sacred Lake, Stephen Mather Wilderness.

taken at Dumont Dunes, Death Valley, features on the cover of this issue of Mammoth Sierra Magazine.

"If you're committed to other forms of work, you can't just get in the car and go. It started in February, and we followed the bloom north for three months. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get that kind of stock."

Visit his web site, www.johndittli.com, to see some of his breathtaking images.

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Whoops....

In the Mammoth Sierra Magazine's Winter 2002-03 edition, Nevado's' partner-operator Tim Dawson (not Dan Dawson) was incorrectly identified in the photograph with chef Steve Mejia in the story on Nevado's called

"An Eclectic Vision."

Our sincere apologies!

—Editor



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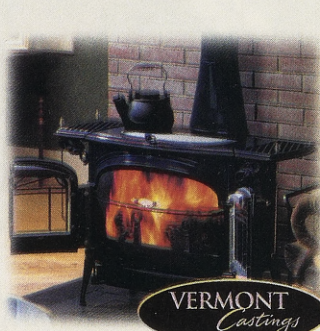
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"Big Daddy"

TO THE BIGGEST RAINBOWS

By Martin Strelneck



Tim Alpers raises trout — not your run-of-the-mill, anemic, supermarket variety, but replicas of what Mother Nature intended a wild rainbow trout to be.

Brilliantly colored, full-finned, tackle-busting rainbows with salmon-colored flesh, noted for being outstanding table fare: that's the "Alpers rainbow."

Tim has a passion — an obsession — for raising quality trout. "I raise a fish that looks, fights, and acts like a wild fish," said Alpers. "We have a lot of mass-produced, stocked fish in the Sierra. My goal has been to offer anglers something special."

A couple of decades ago, the only place you could hook an Alpers heavyweight was on the family-owned ranch and resort. In 1971, Tim and his father, the late Bill Alpers, began raising trout in earnest. The fish were stocked on the resort property, providing outstanding action for guests.

In 1984, the operation began expanding, with Tim providing trophy fish, purchased by private-resort and marina operators, to limited numbers of local waters.

The angling public went crazy for the trophy rainbows, and local governments jumped in. In 1990, Mono County bought into the Alpers fish-stocking scene with a Fishing Enhancement Program. In 1992, the Town of Mammoth Lakes began buying fish for its lakes and streams. And 1994, Inyo County joined in with a limited program. Soon, more private-resort operators, Chambers of Commerce, and private, non-profit groups like Bishop's Adopt-A-Creek were buying increasing numbers of fish for local waters.

To say Tim's trout-rearing operation has expanded would be an understatement. "In 1985, my production was 2,500 pounds," said Alpers. "Last year, we produced 60,000 pounds, not only on the ranch but also at two satellite locations at a lower elevation."

Today, Alpers rainbows can be found in waters from Lone Pine to the West Walker River, 185 miles north. And if you're not an angler but have a taste for palate-pleasing trout, the Alpers rainbows can also be found on the menus of select local restaurants.

Tim didn't get his trout-raising expertise by trial and error. He received his degree in Natural Resources/Fisheries Management from the University of Nevada. He also gained hands-on experience working as an intern for the Nevada

Right: Tim Alpers' parents, Bill and Alice Alpers, with their catch at the ranch in 1937.

Below: Fishing guests at Alpers Ranch in 1937.



Department of Wildlife. Postgraduate work took him to the University of Tulsa, where he received his master's degree and came close to making a career of coaching basketball.

"I was 31 when I had to make up my mind: coaching or raising trout?" Fortunately for high-country anglers, the trout won, and Tim returned to the family ranch.

The 210-acre Alpers Owens River Ranch, located near the headwaters of the Owens River, has been in the Alpers family since 1906. Its pristine location is ideal for raising trout. According to Alpers, it's a combination of factors. "I begin with fertilized eggs in the hatchery. Waters from the springs feed in at a temperature that's stable in the 58° range, winter and summer — ideal for propagating trout. Water quality is excellent, with just the right mineral and oxygen content."

Selecting only top-quality fertilized eggs is a high priority for Tim. "You have to be on top of the industry, being aware of new developments and potential problems and always looking for the best product." Past years have seen Alpers purchase fertilized eggs from as far away as Nebraska.

After the hatchery stage, the growing trout are released to a maze of earthen raceways and "growing ponds." "I start with the fertilized eggs. As they develop, depending on size, they're 'graduated' to earthen raceways. There's no cement raceways in this operation."

Tim is quick to point out that earthen raceways, with their rich aquatic vegetation, are a major element in produc-

ing a "natural" fish. "I feed only the highest quality commercial food, but it's the abundance of constantly available natural food, aquatic insects, and invertebrates that makes for a strong, healthy fish — basically, the same diet they have in the wild."

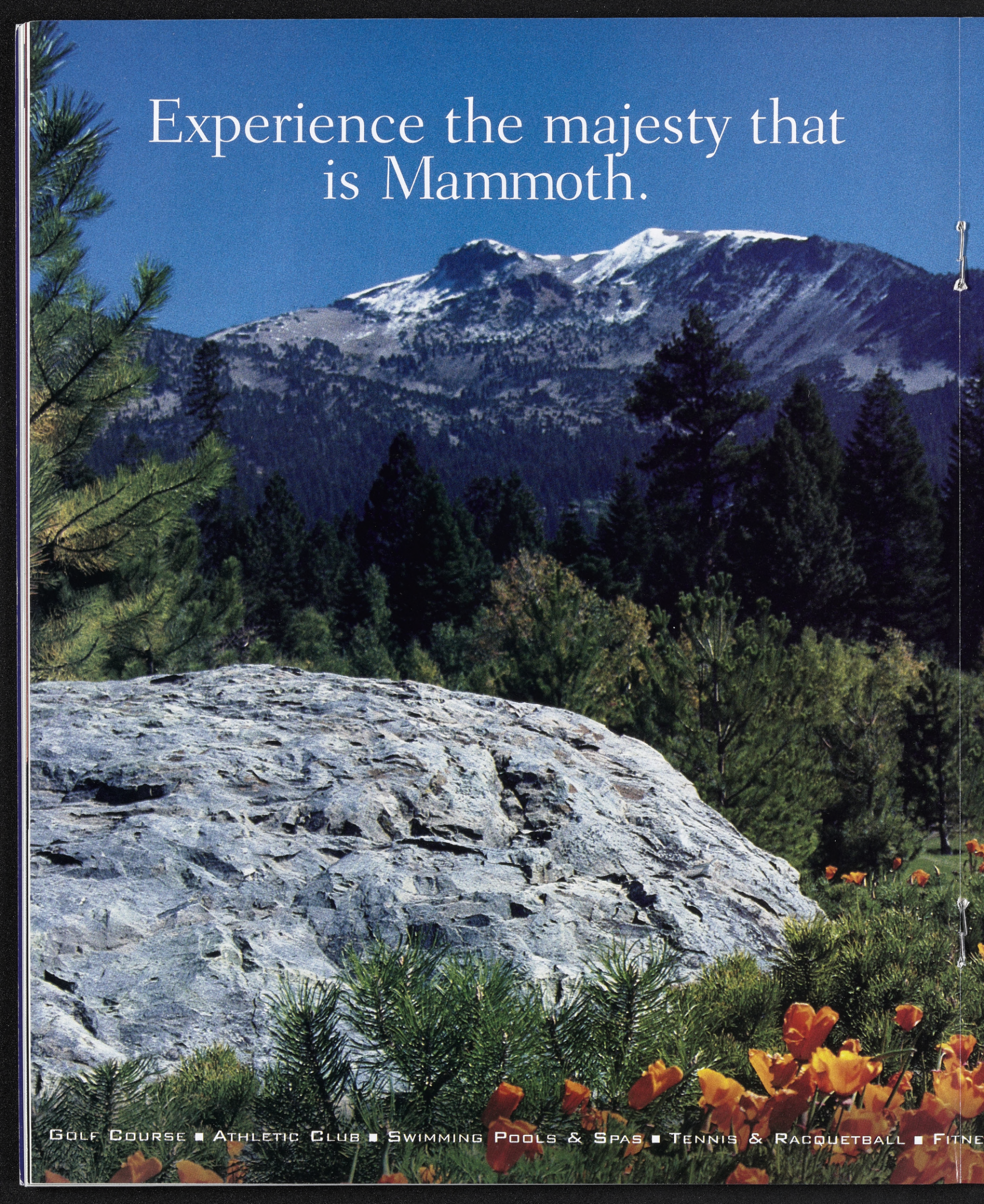
From the fertilized egg to a five-pound trophy trout takes about three years. "You have to begin with good genetic stock, raise 'em in the right water, don't crowd them, feed the right food, and make sure conditions are as close as possible to what we find in the wild," exhorts Alpers. "You end up with a trout that has all the characteristics of a wild trout."

Alpers doesn't know the meaning of an eight-hour workday or of staying home in inclement weather. "It's not just a summertime operation. They have to be fed and the raceways and hatchery troughs cleaned year 'round, winter or summer, sunny days or deep snow."

There's a host of trout-loving predators very familiar with the Alpers ranch. Several acres of raceways and ponds are covered with special netting aimed at discouraging herons, ravens, coyotes, and bobcats, to name a few. Summer and fall even see an occasional hungry bear looking for easy pickings.

In the future, Tim expects to make his product even better. He's begun developing his own spawning program, fertilizing and incubating eggs that are "home-produced." "I'm

continued on page 30



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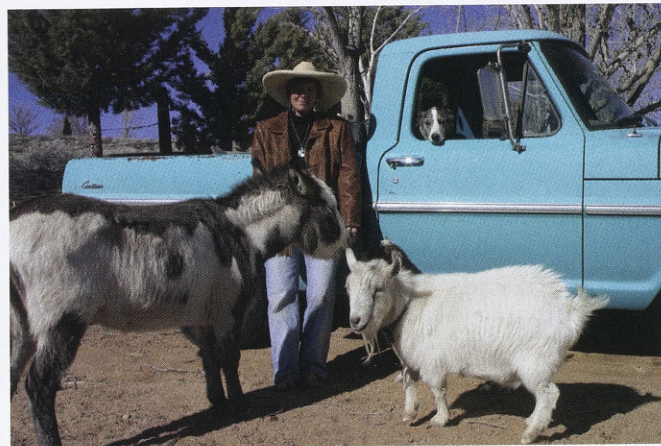
Essential Art:

Born from the Heart

By Rebecca Stow



Bright colors and animals are a feature of Cheyenne's home, studio, and artwork. Her off-beat ideas have a sense of humor all their own.



"I feel like my art and my life are entwined."

Most mornings, Cheyenne McAfee wakes in the dark. She starts her day ahead of the sunrise over the White Mountains, before the liquid rays begin streaming through an array of east-facing windows at her home in Swall Meadows. First she tends to her chores outside, where animals lie snug in the barn. Then she travels as far as a west-facing studio in her home to work.

Cheyenne is a painter — a well-known, highly commissioned painter, recognized for her Southwestern themes. She paints mainly with opaque watercolor but also uses acrylics and dabbles in other fields, from painted tinwork to jewelry. Painting is her staple and also her favorite; she prefers the two-dimensional work and loves the feel of the paint. As early as kindergarten, Cheyenne felt drawn to art and was especially adept in it. She has made a living as a painter without any formal training for more than 30 years. Throughout the years, at times through trial and error, her art has evolved.

"My work always featured animals. I used to do more-stylized people, but a lot of those people [were] with animals," Cheyenne says.

She uses anthropomorphic images, like the trickster coyote, to illustrate certain moods and communicate ideas. In the last year, she strayed away from literal images to more stylized or abstracted forms. In one recent painting, titled "Transition," a canine and woman create a circle surrounded by symbols in colors of salmon and verdigris.

Since much of her work has had a Southwestern theme, Cheyenne believes it may be better understood



in the West, but she has had commissions from as far away as Washington, D.C. In the past, she has exhibited in New Mexico and Arizona as well as California, but, currently, commissions keep her busy six days a week. Some commissions are from repeat customers — people who've collected as many as four pieces of her art — and others from are first-timers. Without a body of work on display right now, people often find her through Mammoth Gallery, where she usually keeps at least one painting.

Each of Cheyenne's paintings

bears a special part of her. Each is like the birthing process; it starts out as just a thought, grows, is nurtured and loved, and eventually must leave. Most of the time, she names her

pieces — but not always. Sometimes the title comes first, sometimes it comes after, and sometimes there is no title. A few times she hasn't been able to part with a piece.

"I feel like my art and my life are entwined. I hope that the artwork that I do, or the feeling that I have for doing artwork, can translate to the relationships outside of art, and I count on the natural environment



continued on page 31

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OUTDOORS

continued from page 25

working several strains of rainbow trout with a goal of genetically developing a fish that will do best, considering the unique resources we have here on the ranch."

Future anglers will see "Alpers browns" inhabiting Eastern Sierra waters, too. "I intend on raising brown-trout broodstock, spawning fish initially for the waters on the ranch. But if there's a demand, they will be stocked in other waters throughout the area."

For two decades, the chance to catch a big Alpers rainbow has driven anglers to the high country in search of trophies suitable for the den wall. How big do the Alpers trout get? The next time you're in Mammoth Lakes, check out the 22.5-pound specimen gracing the wall at Union Bank of California.

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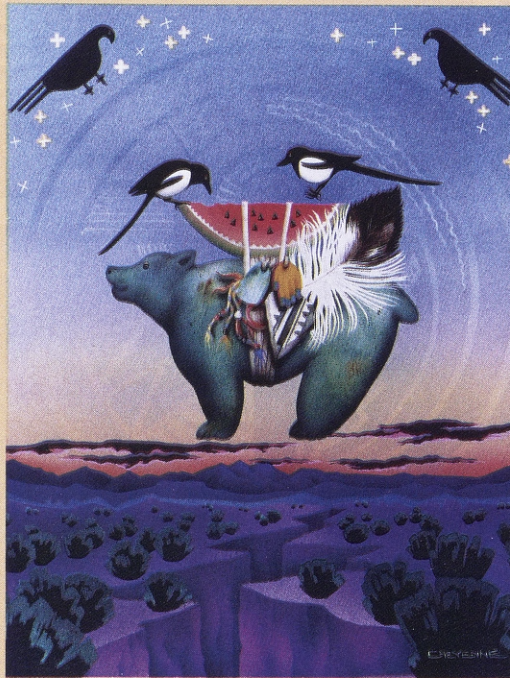


CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

and the animals that I have in the barn to help me," Cheyenne says.

Acting as muses are two llamas, two miniature goats, a miniature donkey, chickens, and a nomadic rattlesnake named Cinnamon Bun. Her dogs, Ghost Dancer and The Chaco Kid, as well as three kittycats and five chickens (one named Eyegone after an encounter with a skunk), are also part of this world. Other inspiration comes from art she collects from other cultures, pieces that strike a cord.

Along with animals, the land is an essential element of Cheyenne's life, an element exuded in her art. In 1976, Cheyenne relocated from Southern California, where she says she didn't fit in, to Mammoth. Ten years ago she moved to Swall Meadows for the open land and privacy. Her goal is to



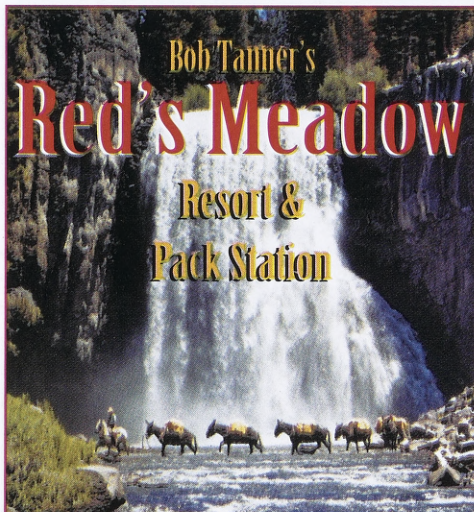
Cheyenne weaves magic with her art.

return the property to its native environment, which is home to deer, bobcats, eagles, and other wildlife. To see the stars and moonlight and be closer to the land, Cheyenne sleeps in a teepee during warm weather. She also works in an outside patio where she can do bigger projects on large pieces of plywood.

When not working, Cheyenne explores the outdoors, lately focusing on the Tablelands and local petroglyphs.

Even with her different interests, Cheyenne maintains a consistency in her work, only occasionally going on a lark. When it comes to trends, Cheyenne doesn't necessarily associate broad appeal with quality work.

"My goal," Cheyenne says, "is to make each piece unique and to paint as honestly as possible."



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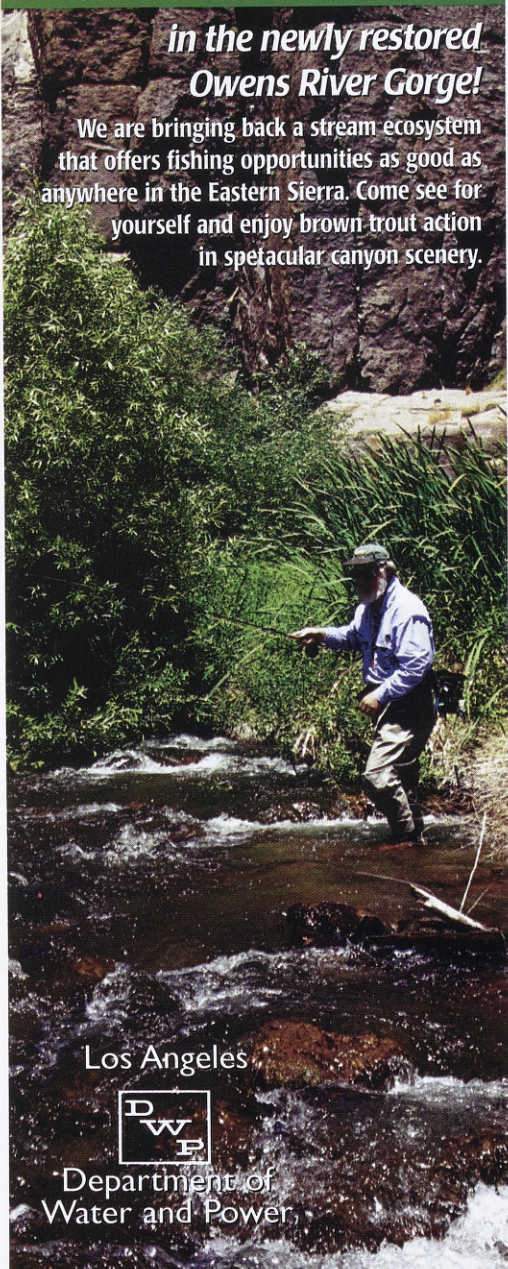
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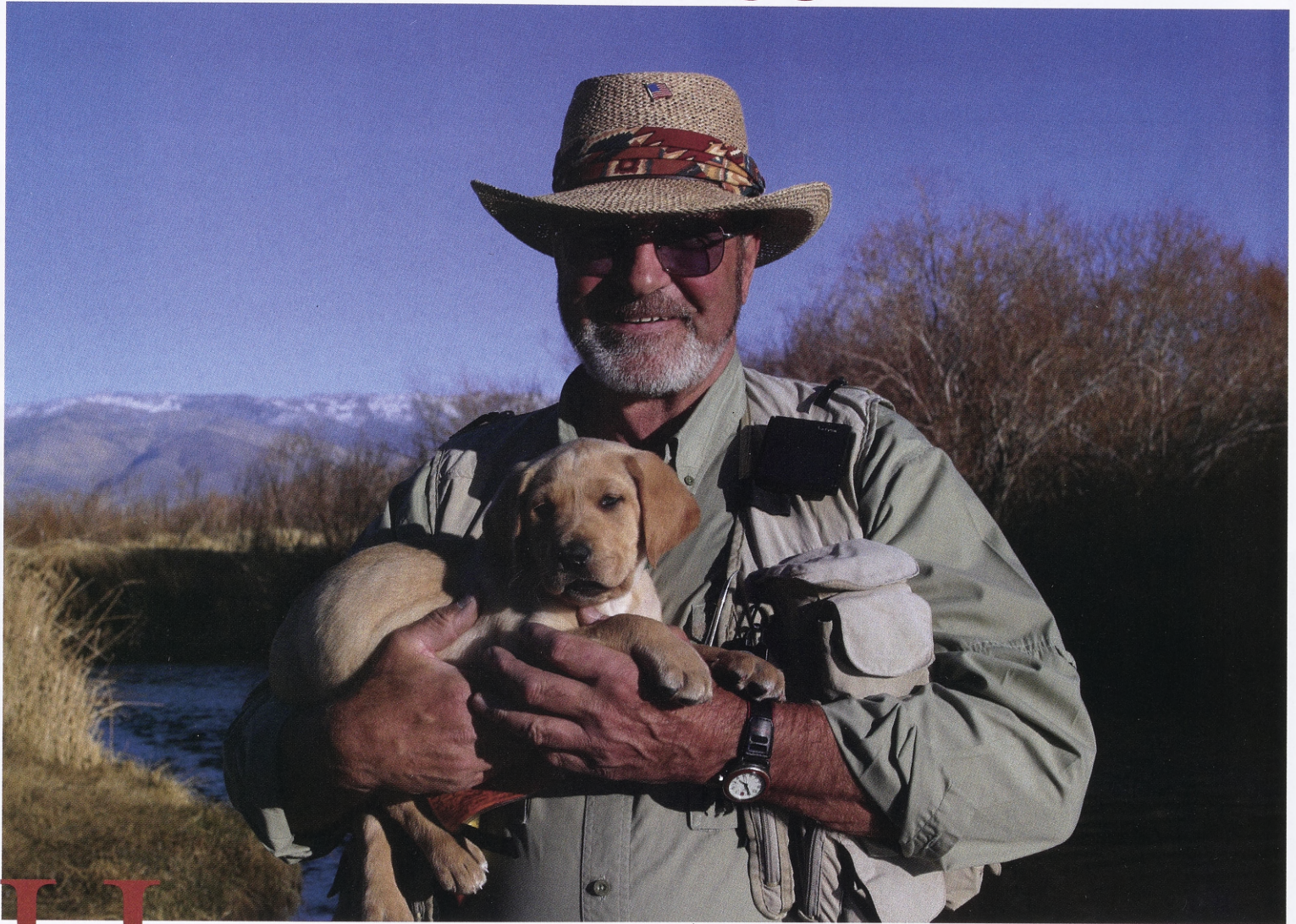
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Fighter Pilot

Bob Waggoner



Bob Waggoner with his new friend Stuart, a yellow Lab puppy.

He now holds a fly fishing rod in his hand, whereas in the past he'd be at the controls of a jet fighter. Now retired, Colonel Bob Waggoner spent 27 years serving in the United States Air Force. In 1966 his fighter-bomber was shot down 100 kilometers south of Hanoi, North Vietnam. He spent the next 6-1/2 years as a POW in Hanoi, including time at the Hanoi Hilton and in the section known as the Heartbreak Hotel.

After the cease-fire was negotiated, he was released on March 4, 1973. "You had to keep a positive thought, or it

would get to you. I have a better understanding of myself and an appreciation of things like this," he said looking around at the Owens River and the Sierra. "Adversity makes people realize what's important in life."

In 1981, Bob moved to Mammoth, and married his wife, Vicki, who works as an X-ray technician at Mammoth Hospital. Bob mentors a young boy and has two grown boys of his own, Joe and Kyler. He likes the diversity of the Eastern Sierra. "Where else can you ski in the morning and fly-fish or play golf in the afternoon?"

Socialite

Sue Ebersold

A pair of Sorels, longjohns, and stylish sunglasses are part of the Mammoth socialite's trendy wardrobe. Sue Ebersold is a self-confessed "sunglasses freak" with a wry sense of humor. Sue likes to throw parties for her friends. Each year, she organizes a big Oscar party at Grumpy's. The event is a fundraiser for the Mammoth Youth Sports Fund, which she started in honor of her late daughter, Allie. The funds raised are distributed to individuals and sports groups to help young people participate in sports. Sue is also an active member of the Lions Club and the Mammoth Chamber of Commerce, and took over the Holiday Helpers program with Tony Barrett this Christmas.

Sue came to Mammoth in 1982, and her first job was at Pea Soup Andersons (now gone). In 1986, Sue and Jan Vasily started the Breakfast Club, which Sue now owns.

Sue notices changes in Mammoth since the eighties. "The employee pool is much smaller now." Building and growth have changed the face of Mammoth. "I can remember this huge meadow," she said, looking from The Bluffs out over Snowcreek Golf Course and surrounding houses on Ranch Road. A home- and business-owner in Mammoth, Sue enjoys the lifestyle Mammoth has to offer.



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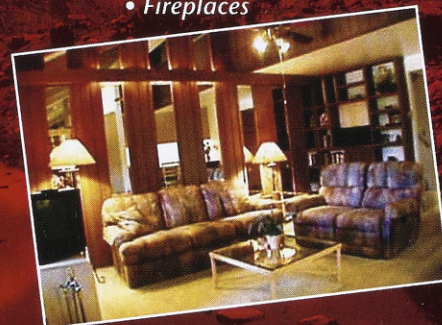


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Bridgeport's 1881 Elegant Cuisine

By Jane Dove Juneau



Erinn O'Connell has transformed the Victorian-era house into a sophisticated, fine-dining restaurant.



PHOTOS © JANE DOVE JUNEAU



Host for the evening, Erin adds finishing touches to the dining room prior to a summer wedding.

On the northern end of Mono County, a few doors along from the historic Bridgeport Courthouse, is an elegant, Victorian-era house. The house has been restored with a sophisticated touch and transformed into a fine-dining restaurant retaining the atmosphere of the late 1800s with millennium cuisine. The Restaurant 1881 is rated “four diamonds” by AAA (the American Automobile Association).

A black wrought-iron fence is outlined against the white-painted brick building. Wild yellow roses and lilac bushes fill the borders of an English country garden. The front door of the restaurant opens into the entryway and bar, where the polished cherrywood floor contrasts with the exposed red-brick walls. The old bricks, from Aurora near Bodie, were discovered under a layer of plaster.

Blue glass shimmers in the stained-glass window above the doorway leading into the front dining-room. Deep red, embossed wallpaper creates a warm atmosphere in the back dining-room. The white-painted tin ceiling-tiles replicate the ceilings of many of the buildings in Bodie. A large, floor-to-ceiling wine cabinet promises a wide selection of vintages.

The 1881 is the creation of owner Erinn O'Connell. “I had

always thought about having a fine-dining restaurant here in Bridgeport, especially when my sister [Marachal Gohlich] opened her bed-and-breakfast [the Cain House]. We saw the need for a fine-dining restaurant for her guests.”

When Erinn bought the house, it had been used as a rental for 20 years and was in “awful shape.” But Erin had a vision, and, with the help of an architect, converted the home into a restaurant. After a year of renovations, Erinn opened the restaurant in February 2001.

Chef Pete Lowery, is key to the restaurant's success. “We both had the same vision of what we wanted to do with the food: clean cuisine,” said Erinn. “It tastes like food is supposed to taste, not covered with layers of different flavors, sauces, and ingredients that don't necessarily match. His sauces complement the main ingredients. He lets the food taste like what it should taste like. I call it true food.” Pete uses fresh ingredients and herbs from the patio. His motto is “freshness is the key to success.”

The restaurant has an in-house baker, Audrey Inwood. She bakes all their breads and desserts from scratch. Audrey is a self-taught baker, with cookbooks numbering in the hundreds.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

Tu-Kah Novie Restaurant at Paiute Palace Casino, Bishop

Affordable, convenient, with an old-fashioned coffee shop feel, the Tu-Kah Novie is a great stop for any meal. Menu highlights include a prime rib dinner special on Friday & Saturday, and seafood dinners on Friday, plus daily lunch specials and a \$1.99 breakfast deal. Enjoy the casino atmosphere after you eat, or bring the whole family in before you head down highway 395. Tu-Kah Novie's menu has something for everyone served in a casual, friendly atmosphere.

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily.
760-873-4150 or 888-3-PAIUTE



Austria Hof Restaurant

A mammoth landmark since 1972. The Austria Hof, now rated 3 diamonds by AAA Restaurant guide, serves hearty German 'bill of fare' as well as savory American favorites in their newly renovated dining room. German specialties include Sauerbraten, Bratwurst, Kassel Rippchen and Weiner Schnitzel. Local favorites include Venison, Scampi, Rack of Lamb, Steaks Trout and Pasta. A wide selection of German Beers are on-tap or in the bottles and compliment the full bar and wine list. Lively happy Hour 3-6PM daily. Enjoy and exceptional evening of warm ambiance and fine food at Mammoths finest German restaurant. At the top of Canyon Boulevard, next to Canyon Lodge.

Dinner 5 PM Nightly

Reservations 760-934-2764



Restaurant 1881

The elegant Restaurant 1881 resides in a meticulously restored Victorian era home on Main Street in Bridgeport and has earned the AAA Four Diamond Award for Dining. Erinn O'Connell hosts a dining adventure that is a 'journey for the senses,' Chef Pete Lowery has created a 'clean cuisine' letting the food taste as it should and in-house Pastry Chef Audrey Inwood bakes tantalizing breads and pastry. The menu changes with the season, deserts complement the menu and an extensive wine list highlights the dining experience.

Open Thursday – Sunday at 5:30pm (Feb thru April 24)

Open Daily (April 25 – Nov 15)

Open Thursday – Sunday (Nov 15 – Dec 31)

For Reservations: 760-932-1918

<http://restaurant1881.com>



continued from page 37

The menu changes with the seasons. The summer the starters included —

- Sautéed portabella mushrooms with peppers and bleu cheese, splashed with burgundy.

- Baked brie in puff pastry with honey-walnut butter, sliced apples, and baguettes.

Mouthwatering entrées include —

- Rack of lamb roasted to perfection in pistachio crust, or

- The freshest local Alpers trout, stuffed with mushrooms and pine-nuts, in a chive-leek sauce.

For dessert, choose from hummingbird cake, vanilla crème brûlée, chocolate ganache cake served with strawberry champagne sauce, and chocolate tiramisu.

To complement the fine cuisine, Erinn has built up an extensive wine list, starting initially with an emphasis on California wines "because California does such a great job with wines." Now she features wines from around the world. International selections include Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand, Shiraz from Australia, and a selection of French wines, including Riesling from Alsace and wine from the Loire Valley.

Erinn and her team cater for weddings, special functions, luncheons, and community dinners. They have also catered for holiday parties and cowboy-poetry readings at Benny Romero's Bridgeport Barns Ranch and Terrace, overlooking cattle fields and the majestic Sierra.

The 1881 Restaurant is located at 362 Main Street in Bridgeport; phone (760) 932-1918. Their website is <http://restaurant1881.com/>.

A Little More 'Edgy'

By Jane Dove Juneau



Vivacious Rebecca Clark with paintings by Metrov.

“The less beaten path tends to be my nature. I like to go against the grain. It’s fun to be challenged that way.” The mix of ideas and background that formulates the character of Rebecca Clark is interesting.

She’s a small person yet has a high-energy personality. Her piercing blue eyes sparkle and dance as she talks about her background. She dresses “uptown.” The Bay Area influence shows. But it’s when the conversation turns to art and sculpture that she becomes most articulate and animated.

Rebecca Clark owns the Clark Contemporary Gallery in Mammoth. “I’m a sculptor. I went to the San Francisco Art Institute. When I moved here, it was having that background that gave me the incentive to start something a little more edgy” — namely, a gallery with contemporary, cutting-edge art. “I have a lot of contacts from art school as well as having grown up with parents both artists.”

Penny Arntz, her mother, and Michael Arntz, her stepfather, are both artists.

“My mother is a fiber artist, and she also paints. Her weavings

are designed to be more sculptural elements rather than functional like a tapestry. Michael is a very well-known sculptor in California. Ceramics are his main medium; he is also a photographer and paints as well.” Michael teaches at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

In its first year, the gallery has exhibited artwork by Richard Ross, the principal photographer for the Getty Museum; Lucy Brown, a leading sculptor in the contemporary art movement in California; sculptor Brett Price; and internationally recognized artist Metrov, who has recently moved to the Eastern Sierra.

Rebecca is first and foremost a cowgirl. She grew up with her dad on a 22,000-acre cattle ranch in Arizona close to the Mexican border. “I’m most comfortable on the back of a horse, driving cattle or working in a corral.” The split identity evolved when she also fit right into the San Francisco art scene. “When I set foot on the campus [San Francisco Art Institute], I knew I was at the right place — the energy, the teachers, the whole environment was very exciting.”

When she discovered there were over 30,000 painters in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43

"Dog Town" Man's Best Friend

By Stacy Corless



Matilda exchanges kisses with Lyn Dunlap at Tailwaggers.

Mono County's canine roots go back to the name of the first hardscrabble mining settlement near Bodie: Dog Town. One walk around Horseshoe Lake proves that name had staying power. Mammoth is nothing if not a dog town: canines rule the roost here, as they do on ranches, front porches, and trails from Bridgeport to Bishop and beyond.

I resisted the call of the wild for four years, satisfying myself with borrowed Labs and two cats. But the running gets lonely, and the pet adoption advocates get vocal. Last March I found myself traveling to Big Pine to meet a Brittany Spaniel named Jethro. While the hunting dog didn't seem quite my type, a three-month-old Queensland Heeler, Matilda, mix won my heart with gentle eyes and a sweet disposition.

After passing a rigorous review process led by the very attentive and enthusiastic Lisa Schade of ICARE (Inyo County Animal Resource and Education), I took Matilda home to Mammoth. I promised to crate-train her, to exercise her, and to enroll her in obedience classes.

Today, Matilda's gentle puppy eyes fairly glow with herding-dog energy, and her sweet disposition includes good doses of dingo-like mischief. Luckily, the Eastern Sierra is not only home to numerous dogs but also to numerous resources for dog-owners. Matilda has chewed through three leashes in her short 10 months on this earth, but she is greeted at Tailwaggers like a princess. Pet-prioritizing places like Tailwaggers celebrate the companionship, love, and pure entertainment that our dogs happily provide. Here's a short list of Matilda's favorites:

Mammoth Pet Products: This Mammoth-based manufacturer of pet toys and training aids also operates the town's only full-service pet shop. The recently relocated store on Laurel Mountain Road has top-of-line food for dogs, cats, birds, and fish, plus a complete selection of their signature toys and anything else a beast might want to chew on (Matilda's partial to the tire biter). The store is open Monday–Friday, 10–6, Saturday–Sunday, 10–5. www.mammothpets.com; 760-934-4417.

Tailwaggers: Mammoth is the kind of town where



dogs have birthday parties, and Tailwaggers is the kind of place that'll supply the cake. Pam and Lyn, the friendly proprietors and bakers at Tailwaggers, opened the dog boutique in the Sierra Center Mall about a year ago. It didn't take long for dogs about town to catch on - they can smell the chicken-liver brownies from the parking lot. In addition to the bakery, Tailwaggers features house-made bandanas and other canine fashions, toys, books, and nutritional supplements. The dog-washing bay is a convenient way to clean up without sacrificing the bathroom. Find Lyn, or Pam and her faithful sidekick Ricky, at Tailwaggers. Call for hours. www.tailwaggersbakery.com; 760-924-3400.

ICARE: Since Lisa and Ted Schade founded ICARE in 1997, euthanizations at the Inyo County Animal Shelter have dropped 62%. The non-profit organization facilitates pet adoptions - thanks to Lisa's animal-photography skills and



Matilda's sweet disposition includes a good dose of dingo-like mischief.

PR blitz, shelter adoptions have increased 42%. ICARE also funds low-cost dog and cat spay and neuter surgeries. (Still, Lisa finds time to e-mail Matilda.) ICARE operates solely on donations - call the Schades or visit their website to join the organization. www.icare.cjb.net; 760-872-3802.

Other important dog numbers, places, and facts:

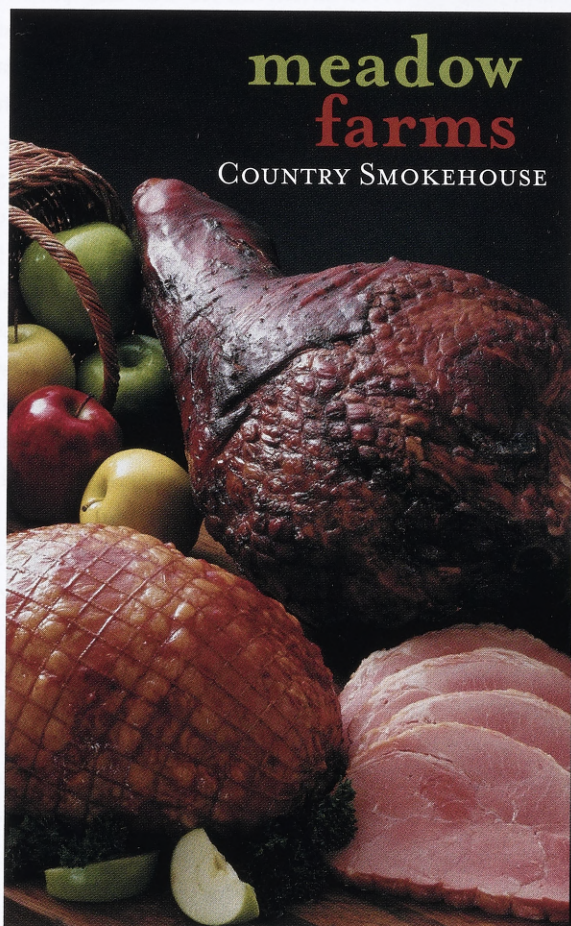
Southern Mono County Animal Shelter: 760-935-4734.

Best Dog Spots: Horseshoe Lake is Mammoth's unofficial dog-park in summer and fall. In

winter, the groomed walking and skiing trail at Shady Rest is popular with canines - watch your step.

The Rules: Dogs must be leashed in the Town of Mammoth Lakes (and in other Mono County communities).

Training: The Town of Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation Department offers basic dog-obedience courses taught by Angie Tapley. 760-924-8989, ext. 222.



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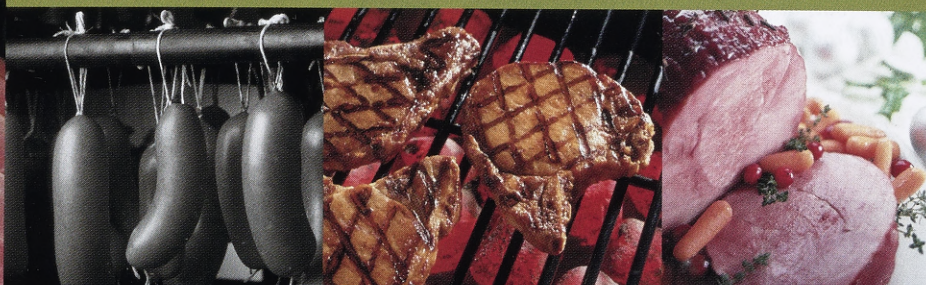
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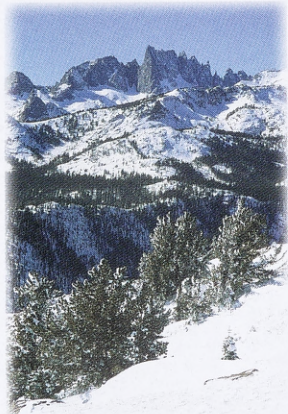
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

Bay Area, Rebecca decided to become a sculptor. She worked on site-specific installations, drawing on her background growing up on the cattle ranch. One her heroes as a site-specific sculptor was Andy Goldsworthy. "He creates these amazing, very primitive, primal pieces, like a meditation piece, with no impact on the environment."

After leaving college with a bachelor of fine arts, Rebecca worked for Greenpeace USA as an administrative assistant for fundraising. She was involved with the nuclear-free-protest ship Vega when it was used in French waters for a protest French nuclear tests. In 1990 during 'Fleet Week,' Rebecca joined with anti-nuclear protesters on board the Vega in San Francisco Bay. Armed with nuclear weapons, United States submarines, aircraft carriers, and gunboats travel into the bay as a show of force. "We slowed the boats coming down through the Golden Gate passage."

In 1998, Rebecca moved to Mammoth with her husband, Dan Clark, who has his own screen-printing business here called Two Miles High. Their daughter, Ciel, is 3-1/2. Rebecca and Don came to Mammoth together to ski while they were at high school. "We thought it would be a great place to raise children. The Eastern Sierra offers so much aesthetically, visually with the landscape, which is incredible, and a nice community. It appealed to me because it's very landlocked and development is very limited. Urban sprawl is very upsetting to me."

Inspired by Glenda Hill, who owned Spirit Objects D'Art gallery, Rebecca began looking around Mammoth for a space to incorporate large sculpture as well as painting. The gallery space next to Nik-n-Willie's on Old Mammoth Road has a high ceiling and the ability to change for different exhibitions. The gallery is also used for workshops, special community functions, and as a workspace for Rebecca to continue her sculpting. Her nail chair, one of a series of six story-telling chairs, generated a



Photographic exhibition of
Mountains and Rivers by
Robert Glenn Ketchum

lot of interest at the Labor Day Arts Festival in Mammoth.

Rebecca has helped establish the Eastern Sierra Children in the Arts Project through the Eastern Sierra Family Resource Center. "It gives the kids a chance to do cross-cultural art projects and uses art for therapy. It has given the therapists a valuable tool to interact with kids not able to open up easily, a tool to create productive dialogue. The kids love it."

The gallery has space to rotate different artists of local, national, and internationally renown. Rebecca's goal is to reach people who would not normally visit an art gallery, by attracting them to a workshop or class, or through education.

"My dream is to have [the gallery] be part of the community through service, and making art events open to the public, thereby educating the public in the arts — creating artistic fundraising events that serve our community."

March 1-31, Clark Contemporary Gallery is having a photographic exhibition with



"Faith," the nail-chair created by Rebecca Clark, generated a lot of interest at the Labor Day Arts Festival in Mammoth.

Robert Glenn Ketchum, Macduff Everton, and Michael Arntz. The exhibition is a benefit, and 25% of the sales will be donated to Andrea Mead Lawrence's Institute for Mountains and Rivers. The exhibition will be held in the Luxury Outlet Mall on Main Street in the space previously used by Big Dogs. Glenn Ketchum will speak at the reception to be held on March 22.

"He's a great speaker. He's a very charismatic man, very well-educated and very well-spoken. He is involved in preserving the environment for future generations."

Rebecca will continue to bring an exciting range of art to Mammoth, and I look forward to an exhibition of Rebecca's work.

"For me, art is the one thing that keeps me focused; it's my glue. It's part of my being that gives me the energy to do everything else."

Clark Contemporary Gallery, 76 Old Mammoth Road. Phone 760-934 8160 or visit online at:

www.clarkcontemporary-gallery.com.

spring events calendar

March 2003

- 1-2 Mammoth Kiteboarding Event, Wave Rave/Steve Klassen, (760) 934-2471
- 1 Early Opener Trout Derby, Lone Pine, (760) 876-4444
- 3-5 California State High School & Snowboard Championships
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 3-5 Mammoth Women's Seminar, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 8 Children's Day to Explore the Arts, Bishop, (760) 873-8341
- 6-9 Play: "Steel Magnolias", Sierra Classic Theater/Kristin Power, (760) 934-3893
- 9 Vans Unbound Freestyle Series — Slopestyle
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 10-13 California Police & Fire Olympics, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 13-16 Play: "Steel Magnolias"
Sierra Classic Theater/Kristin Power, (760) 934-3893
- 15 Blake Jones Trout Derby, Pleasant Valley Reservoir, (760) 873-8405
- 14-16 Dave McCoy College Classic, Mammoth Lakes Foundation, (760) 934-3781
- 15 St Patrick's Day Punk Fest, Mammoth Mountain Music, (760) 934-0606
- 16 Vans Unbound Freestyle Series-Boardercross
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 16 Vance Gilbert Concert at Little Eagle Lodge
Mammoth Mountain Music, (760) 934-0606
- 16 2003 Kittredge Cup, Kittredge Sports, (760) 934-7566
- 17-24 USSA Western J1 & J2 Junior Olympics, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
- 20-24 On-Snow Demos, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 21-23 Mammoth Winterfestival, Rotary Club/Joanne Hunt, (760) 934-6643
- 28-30 Rainbow Ski Weekend, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 28-29 Banff Mountain Film Festival: Award winning documentary films
Wilson's Eastside Sports, (760) 873-7520
- 30 2003 Mammoth Marathon, Tamarack XC Ski Center, (760) 934-2442

April 2003

- 2-4 On Snow Demos/Powder to the People
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 6 Tour De Taste Cross-Country Ski Tour, Tamarack XC Ski Center, (760) 934-2442
- 7-12 Western Region FIS Elite Spring Series
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 12 Felici Piano Trio Concert, Mono County Arts Council, (760) 934-3342
- 12 Children's Easter Party, Mammoth Lakes Branch Library, (760) 934-4777
- 12 ICARE Fundraising Dinner Tri-County Fairgrounds Bishop
Charles Brown Building, (760) 873-3588
- 14-20 USSA Far West Ski Championships, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 18 Easter Playday, Mammoth Lakes Parks n Recreation, (760) 934-8989, ext. 222
- 18-20 Show N'Shine Car Show, Lone Pine, (760) 876-4444
- 20 June Mountain Closing Day, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 20 Mammoth Mountain Concert Series, Mammoth Mountain Music, (760) 934-0606
- 20 Tamarack XC Ski Center Closing Day, Tamarack XC Ski Center, (760) 934-2442
- 24 Fishing Season Opener Kickoff Dinner
Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, (760) 924-2360
- 26 Official Trout Season Opener
- 26 Rainbow Days Trout Display, Bishop
Bishop Lions Club, (760) 873-8802
- 26 Opening Day of the Fishing Season
Dept. of Fish & Game, (760) 934-2664
- 26 Snowcreek Driving Range Projected Opening Day
Snowcreek Golf Course, (760) 934-6633
- 27 Canyon Lodge Closing Day, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 27 Little Eagle Lodge Closing Day, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 28-30 California Special Sports, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571

May 2003

- 1 California Special Sports, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 1 Inyo-Mono Shrine Club Circus, Tri-County Fairgrounds, (760) 873-3588
- 2-4 West Coast Invitational, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 3 Laws Railroad Museum Choo-Choo Swap Meet,
Bishop Tri County Fairgrounds, (760) 873-5950
- 3 Outdoor Music Festival at Main Lodge
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-0606
- 3-4 Tri-County Fair Home Show, Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop, (760) 873-3588
- 9-31 Convict Lake Spring Trout Derby, Convict Lake Resort, (760) 934-3800
- 16 Snowcreek Golf Course Projected Opening Day
Snowcreek Golf Course, (760) 934-6633
- 17-18 Death Valley-Mt. Whitney Bike Race
Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce, (760) 876-4444
- 17-21 Bishop & Bodie Horse & Wagon Ride
Red's Meadow Pack Station, (760) 934-2345
- 17 Town Clean-Up Day, Town of Mammoth Lakes, (760) 934-8989, ext. 266
- 17-18 Bishop Tennis Tournament, Bishop City Park, (760) 873-5088
- 18 Bishop High Sierra Endurance Runs 50 Mile/50K/20Mile
Millpond County Park
- 21-25 Mule Days Celebration, Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop
760/872-4263, www.muledays.org
- 23 Mammoth Museum Opens, So. Mono Historical Society, (760) 934-6157
- 24-25 Parking Lot Book Sale
Friends of the Library/Wilma Wheeler, (760) 934-3764
- 24 Felici Piano Trio Concert, Mono County Arts Council, (760) 934-3342
- 24 Sierra Star Golf Course Opening Day, Sierra Star Golf Course, (760) 924-4653

June 2003

- 24 Felici Piano Trio Concert, Mono County Arts Council, (760) 934-3342
- 1-8 Convict Lake Spring Trout Derby, Convict Lake Resort, (760) 934-3800
- 4 Nine & Dine — Snowcreek Golf Course
Snowcreek Golf Course, (760) 934-6633
- 7 Tour of the Homes, Mammoth Lakes Lutheran Preschool, (760) 934-2056
- 14-15 Everest Challenge Bike Race, Bishop
760/873-8686 www.everestchallenge@aol.com
- 16 Community Band Performances, Bishop City Park
Monday evenings, (760) 873-3508
- 20-22 American Heat Hot Rod Run/Mitch & Silver Collector Car Auction
Paul Payne, (760) 934-2515
- 20-22 2nd Annual Bird Chautauqua, Mono Lake Committee, (760) 647-6595
- 21-23 Land of Volcanoes Historical 4WD Tour
4-Wheeling Adventures, (818) 352-9489
- 26-29 Mammoth Moto-X
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area/Mike Colbert, (760) 934-0605
- 27 Mammoth Mountain Bike Park & Gondola Opening Day
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, (760) 934-2571
- 27-29 Mammoth Mean Mountain Run Motorcycle Festival
Sierra Nevada Rodeway Inn/Paul Payne, (760) 934-2515
- 28-29 Bishop Swim Team Annual Invitational Meet, Bishop City Park

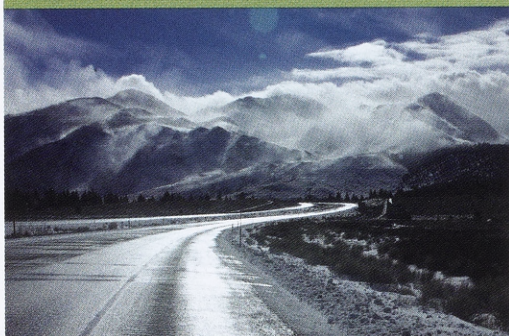
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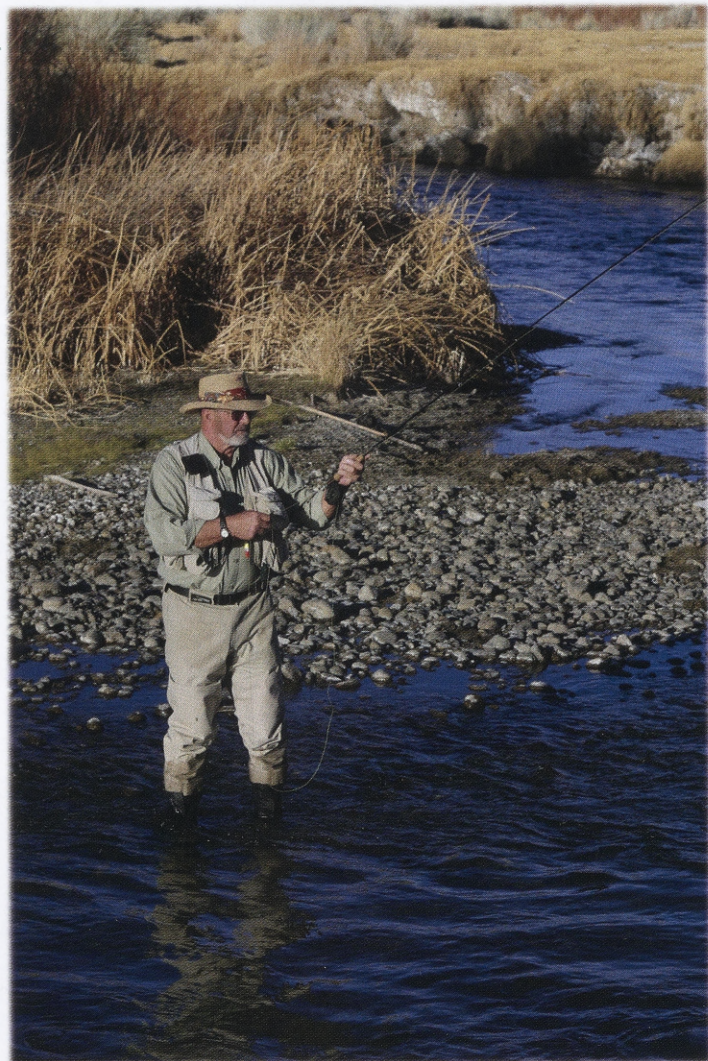
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A Few of My Favorite Waters

By Martin Strelneck



Bob Waggoner fishes the wild-trout section of the Lower Owens River below Pleasant Valley Reservoir.

LOWER OWENS RIVER

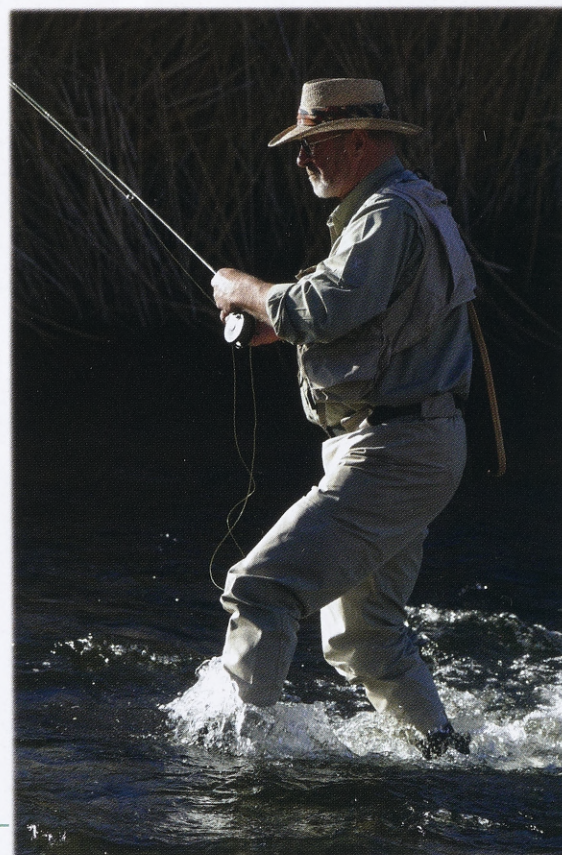
My favorite wintertime location is the Owens Valley, especially the year-'round open waters of the Owens River and Pleasant Valley Reservoir. I like fishing for brown trout, and both locations hold thriving populations of the species. Most of my "trophies" are judged by inches, not pounds. They are a little smarter than the plentiful, stocked rainbows and definitely more of a challenge.

My top producers have been working the brushy, deep holes on the Owens River, bouncing a baby nightcrawler off the bottom. I've found the section between Five Bridges and the Laws bridge on US Highway 6 consistent producers.

What's the best location for catching an Eastern Sierra trout? The US Highway 395 trout-fishing corridor extends 200 miles from Cottonwood Creek, south of Lone Pine, north to Topaz Lake on the Nevada border. There's more than 75 drive-to lakes and streams hosting populations of rainbow, brown, brook, and cutthroat trout. And if you're into the exercise scene, there's hundreds of pristine, uncrowded, trout-producing backcountry locations.

The bottom line is, you can't fish them all. And every angler develops a taste for his favorite water — one that best suits his ability and technique. Looking back at close to four decades of living in the high country, I've fallen into a pattern of spending my fishing hours targeting certain locations.

I don't hang up the rod just because there's snow on the ground. Even though high-elevation Eastern Sierra waters close down for the season Nov. 15, there are still warmer, lower-elevation waters that offer year-'round angling and, from a local's standpoint, a chance to defuse the "cabin fever" syndrome.





Float Tubes at Ellery Lake, Tioga Pass

TIOGA PASS

During the hot summer months, Saddlebag, Ellery, and Tioga Lakes near the 10,000-foot level on Tioga Pass are favored locations. The brown, brook, and rainbow trout aren't trophy-sized, but an abundance of pesky mosquitoes makes for excellent fly/bubble action.

PLEASANT VALLEY RESERVOIR

Throwing lures in the early-morning or late-evening hours is always a good bet at Pleasant Valley Reservoir. The brown trout are more aggressive when the sun is off the water. Thomas Buoyant, Hot Shot wobblers, and Panther Martins are good bets.

GRANT LAKE

The last Saturday in April marks the opening of higher-elevation waters and a time for deciding where to spend your fishing hours. Grant lake is close to my Lee Vining home-base and holds a good population of brown trout, anywhere from the one-pound class to the 20-pound-plus lunker I photographed a few years back. It's a real thrill when you happen to see the dorsal fin of one of these monsters breaking water late in the evening. If you're looking for a big one, troll large minnow imitators, Rapalas, Yo-Zuris, or Rebels.

Working a fly bubble from the back shore in the late-evening hours produces smaller fish but more action. Go for black flies, Woollybuggers, Woollyworms, and nymph patterns, sizes #8-#10.



Tim Alpers stocks one of the Snowcreek ponds for the Children's Fishing Festival in Mammoth.



Malcolm Jackson of Fillmore catches a rainbow at Bridgeport Reservoir

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR

Late in the fall, my destination menu shifts to the north. Every October, I spend considerable time trolling Bridgeport Reservoir, focusing on heavyweight brown and rainbow trout. I had my chance at a wall-hanger last season when a 10-pound-class brown broke off while I was trying to free my net from a fouled lure on another rod in the rod holder. The lesson here is always make sure your landing net is ready for use.

The reservoir is a consistent producer for brown and rainbow trout in the two- to five-pound range. Trolling minnow imitators and soaking inflated nightcrawlers historically have been my top produce



A brown trout caught at Bridgeport Reservoir

SONORA PASS

October is also the time for trophy-class brook trout at Kirman Lake, located a short distance west of Hwy. 395 on the Sonora Pass Road (State Route 108). On today's trout-fishing scene, it's almost impossible to find any western water that produces "brookies" up to the four-pound mark. Kirman Lake is one of those waters. Lures, spinners or wobblers, and midge-imitation flies are top producers, with float-tubing a definite advantage because of the tule-lined shore.

This is not a roadside water, requiring a relatively easy two-mile hike over level terrain. Special regulations apply: two-fish limit, no bait, barbless-hook lure or flies, 16-inch or better size restriction.

CROWLEY LAKE

Crowley Lake is famed for its production of better-than-average-size trout. I'm a non-conformist and look to Crowley for variety, favoring the water's population of Sacramento perch. Often referred to as Crowley Lake crappie, the scrappy, slab-sided pan fish can provide nonstop action from mid-May until season closing — and the table quality is outstanding.

From mid-May until around July, the bite focuses on shallower water, flats, and bays. Later in the season, the perch migrate to deeper habitat. Mini-jigs, worms, and small lures work in the shallows. Trolling small, diving, wobbling lures like the Rebel Crayfish has been a top producer for deeper water.

These are just a few of the Eastern Sierra waters on the fishing agenda. There's a lot more available, and they all have one thing in common: a thriving trout population.

Marketplace

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GOVERNMENT

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES. Stephen B. Julian (Town Manager), 934-8989 ext 226. Fax 934-8608. P O Box 1609, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

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First Year-Round Kid in Town

By Rebecca Stow



Above: Sue Bouska (second left) was the first child to live year-round in town when this photograph was taken in the Mammoth Tavern. Right: Sue heads for the slopes.



Sue Bouska knows what Mammoth looked like in 1948, not from black-and-white photos that hang in shops around town, but from her own memory — the memories of a five-year-old girl.

Mammoth wasn't even a true town when Sue's family journeyed to Mammoth from the beaches of Ventura, Calif., to buy a gas station. They purchased Mammoth Garage on the corner of Old Mammoth Road and State Highway 203.

Back then, Mammoth was a small settlement and extended along Main Street only as far as the post office (still in the same location today). Each household or business had its own generator, as there was otherwise no electricity.

Sue's mother cooked on a wood stove in a house not suitable for cold weather, as Mammoth houses were built for summer visitors — those who hunted and fished. Yet a burgeoning ski business, consisting of one rope tow, hinted at future winter recreation.

Sue's father trudged out in the middle of the winter nights to put the tracks back on the weasels (machines used to haul people and equipment in and out of the ski area) so Dave McCoy's lift would be ready first thing in the morning.

Sue rode the bus with Frankie, the only other kid in Mammoth, to the one-room Hot Creek Elementary School near the Hot Creek Fish Hatchery. They'd often ride the snowplows home when the bus couldn't make it through the snow, and once they even stayed the night at school because of bad weather.

"It was fun," recalls Sue, "just a fact of life when you lived in Mammoth back then."

To attend high school, Sue traveled by bus again, this time all

the way to Lee Vining. After graduating in 1960, she left Mammoth to further her education. Later she met and married Ed Bouska in Costa Mesa, Calif. The newlyweds moved to Mammoth in 1968, more at Ed's request than her own, Sue admits. They settled in for good and raised their two children, Keri and Kevin, in Mammoth.

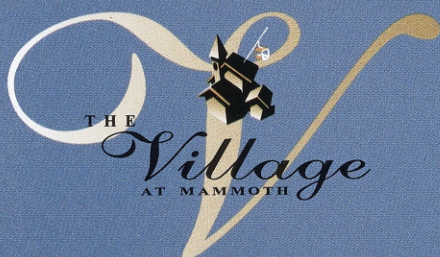
In the nearly fifty years that Sue has lived in Mammoth, she's witnessed a great deal of change. The population increased to 10,000 people. Homes spread past the post office in all directions, leaving little land to build on. Condos, golf courses, restaurants, and shopping centers occupied any empty space along the roads. And Dave's one-rope tow trade became an internationally known ski resort in partnership with the Intrawest Corporation. Her family's gas station (now the Shell Station) still stands near the entrance to town, but they no longer own it, having sold it in 1962.

When it comes to the change, Sue says, "If they can do it and do it well and have it so that it is an attractive place for people year 'round, then we can't shut people out. We have to let people come, because why else would we be here if it wasn't some place we wanted to be?"

Sue still considers Mammoth a safe and beautiful place to live. She works four days a week at the Mammoth Times and still enjoys skiing. Two years ago, Sue renewed her love for skiing after 25 years off, thanks to the Value Pass at Mammoth Mountain. Recently, she spent an especially fun day on the mountain with her daughter and grandkids. Sue enjoys the new high-speed lifts and can get in lots of runs in a short time compared to the "old days." "I'm totally into groomed, no-mogul runs," she says. "I don't need that challenge."



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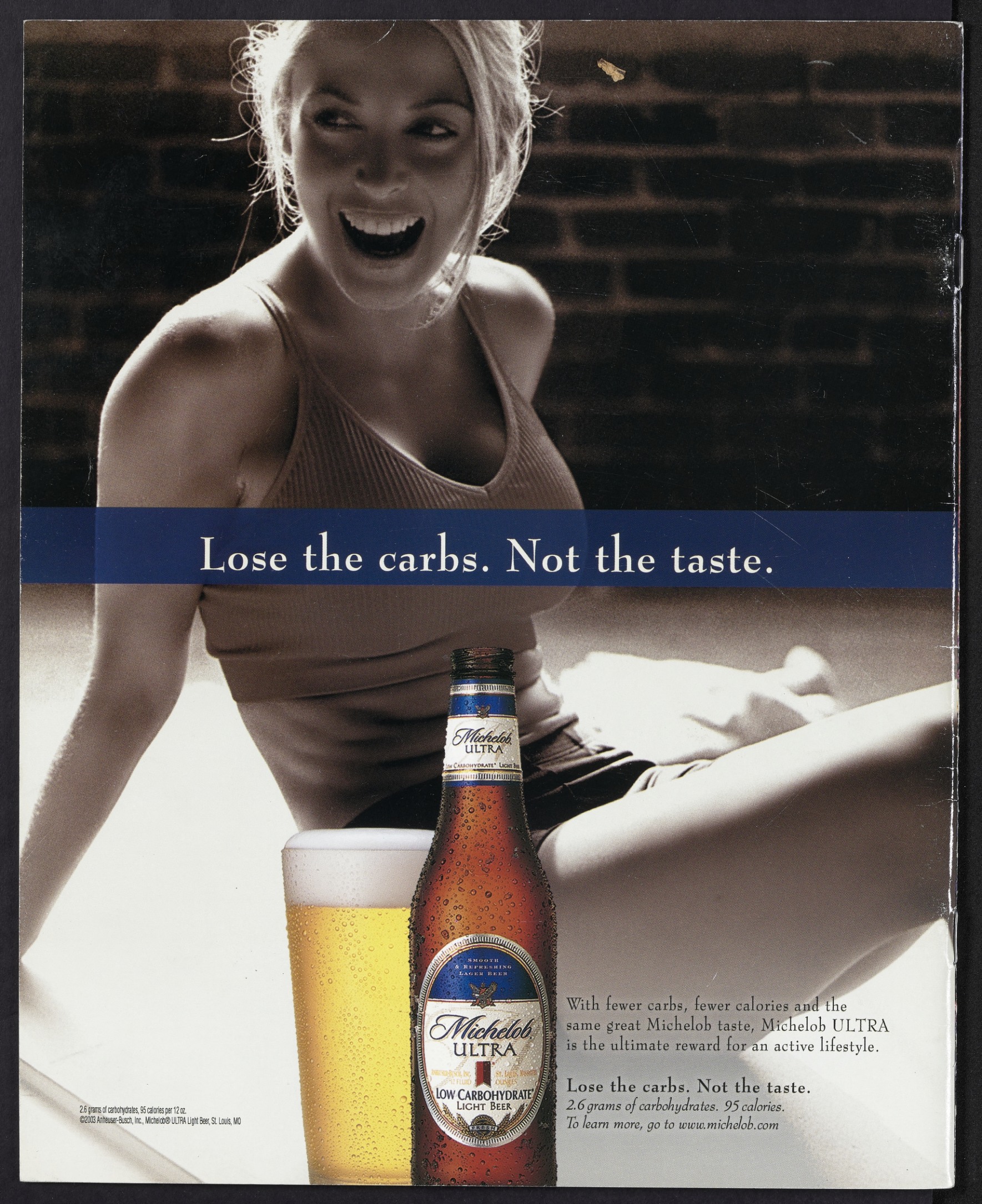


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